

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05

CCO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05

OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 FBO-02 /090 W

----- 065434

Z 040839Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 763

AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: CONSUL BEING HELD HOSTAGE

1. I HAVE JUST COME FROM MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER.
IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION AS TO OUR POSITION, I SAID
THAT EVEN THOUGH STANDARD AND CONTINUING AMERICAN POLICY
WAS NOT TO GIVE IN TO TERRORIST DEMANDS, THESE DEMANDS WERE
NOT ON U.S. GOVERNMENT AND WE THEREFORE TOOK NO
POSITION ON THEM. I ADDED THAT I HAD TALKED TO HABIB BY
TELEPHONE AND THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLEAR: THE USG
WAS NOT PRESSING THE GOM OR GOJ EITHER WAY. I ALSO SAID
THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, MY CONCERN WAS FOR THE LIVES
OF THE HOSTAGES AND THAT I WOULD COOPERATE WITH
HIM IN ANY WAY HE WISHED.

2. PM THANKED ME AND SAID THAT JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NOW ON
HIS WAY FROM AIRPORT (HE ENTERED AS I LEFT) AND THAT HIS
IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS TO DETERMINE POSITION OF JAPANESE
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GOVERNMENT. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY HERE HAS HAD

NO WORD FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. PM SAID THAT GOM'S CONCERN WAS FIRST OF ALL FOR LIVES OF HOSTAGES, MOST OF WHOM WERE MALAYSIAN CITIZENS. HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PUT ANY PRESSURE ON JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

3. PM ASKED IF I HAD ADVICE. I TOLD HIM THAT BY ALL MEANS WE SHOULD KEEP TALKING WITH THE TERRORISTS AND POINTED OUT FACT THAT DEADLINE HAD NOW SLIPPED THREE TIMES AND WAS NOW 5:20 PM LOCAL TIME WAS ENCOURAGING. I EXPRESSED MY COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE MALAYSIAN POLICE ADDING THAT MY ADVICE WAS THAT NO FRONTAL ASSAULT BE ATTEMPTED. PM AGREED. HE THEN SAID THAT MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS MANICKAVASAGAM WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT TERRORISTS BY TELEPHONE TO DISPLAY GOM'S SERIOUSNESS TO KEEP A DIALOGUE GOING.

4. I HAVE NOW RETURNED TO EMBASSY WHERE WE ARE NOW MAINTAINING SKELETON FORCE ON 11TH AND 12TH FLOORS OF BUILDING. ONLY NEW DEVELOPMENT AT SCENE IS THAT POLICEMAN HAS BEEN WOUNDED IN LEG BY SNIPER FIRE FROM 9TH FLOOR.

5. ALSO, RED ARMY GUNMEN HAVE NOT ALLOWED CONSUL STEBBINS TO GIVE US COMPLETE LIST OF HOSTAGES. GUNMAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE FOUR CHILDREN IN THE GROUP. HE ALSO REITERATED 5:30 PM LOCAL TIME DEADLINE AND DEMANDED THAT POLICE CLEAR PARKING LOT AROUND BUILDING (WHERE POLICEMAN WAS INJURED AS NOTED ABOVE).
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06 JUL 2006

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To: STATE STOCKHOLM
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